

L.E.N.S (Leadership Exchange for Network Students) program.

John's students have said: "Through the years you have always come to our games to cheer us on, to applaud our plays, to sing along with us at our concerts; wherever we look you were there to support us. If we were involved, you were involved. You have shown this affectionate concern with us and the Nanuet community. Our parents trust you and believe that we children are safe with you. We thank you for your invisible warm hands."

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join in extending a warm thank you to John Burke for his dedication, his support, faithfulness, and love for his students, community, and his job. Well done John!

RABBI DR. H. JOSEPH SIMCKES
AND CHANA SIMCKES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor Rabbi Dr. H. Joseph and Chana Simckes on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of their association with the Hollis Hills Jewish Center. It is with great pride that I pay tribute to two people who I have known closely, and with whom I have worked with on numerous issues critical to the Jewish community and beyond. Joseph and Chana Simckes have made the Jewish sage Hillel's ancient dictum, "Do not separate yourself from the community," a living guide for their lives and the basis for their continuing efforts to promote social justice and human dignity from within and beyond the walls of the synagogue.

Rabbi Simckes has been an exemplary spiritual leader, teaching Jewish values and providing moral guidance by his personal example, and I confidently expect that he will continue to be a source of leadership, learning and compassion for his congregation. Rabbi Simckes came to the Hollis Hills Jewish Center from a pulpit in Massachusetts and has been an energetic community leader in Jewish philanthropy, Jewish education and pro-Israel advocacy. Holding a doctorate in Pastoral Counseling, with experience in psychotherapy, Rabbi Simckes has been a source of counsel and comfort for hundreds of my constituents, sharing his great wisdom and boundless compassion.

Equally, Chana Simckes has won the hearts and respect of the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, and the larger Jewish community beyond, through her commitment and involvement in sustaining Jewish continuity and values. A refugee from Nazi Germany, Chana Simckes has embodied the American dream: graduating from Columbia University, succeeding as a professional in Jewish education, and rising to the leadership of numerous Jewish community organizations, all while raising a growing family.

Joseph and Chana Simckes have elevated and improved the lives of their community, providing those around them with guidance, education, support and leadership. Stalwart advocates of social action, tireless champions

of the Jewish people and the values of the Torah, I am honored to share with this House their marvelous example, and to hold them up for the recognition they both so richly deserve.

REGARDING THE SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON
EMPOWERMENT ZONES

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Empowerment Zones, and strongly encourage my colleagues to support this worthwhile program. Recently, the Small Business Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Business Opportunities and Special Small Business Problems, of which I am a member, held a hearing to discuss the benefits of Empowerment Zones and the need to authorize funding for Round II EZs.

The EZ and Enterprise Communities (EC) program, target federal grants to distressed urban and rural communities for social services and community redevelopment, and provide tax and regulatory relief intended to attract and retain businesses in these areas. The enacting legislation designated 104 communities as either EZs or ECs. As a part of this program, each urban and rural EZ receives \$100 million and \$40 million, respectively, in flexible Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funds. In addition, qualifying EZ employers are entitled to a 20% credit on the first \$15,000 of wages paid to certain qualified zone employees.

The district I represent in Southern Illinois is home to the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone (SIDEZ). SIDEZ, is one of only eight rural empowerment zones in the United States, and provides a much needed economic boost to Southern Illinois. Currently, SIDEZ is working on community and economic development in seven areas. Those seven goals are, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Tourism Development, Stronger Unity/Sense of Community, Life-long Learning and Education, Housing and Health Care.

The enactment of EZ/EC legislation brought about an innovative, 10-year program to reduce urban and rural poverty and distress. I have seen how effective and well utilized these programs have been and I urge my colleagues to support full funding of current and future Empowerment Zones.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER STONE
"KIT" DOVE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kit Dove, an outstanding environmental activist of California's San Mateo County coast who passed away on April 20, 2000, and who will be honored in a public memorial service at Quarry Park in El Granada, California on June 17, 2000.

Mr. Dove was very active in politics since he first moved to the Coastsides with his family in 1980. He served as a board member and President of the Granada Sanitary District in the 1980's, and more recently, he served on the San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee. In 1986, he was a co-author of the successful San Mateo County Measure A, a growth control measure for the unincorporated areas of the Coastsides. In 1994, he helped pass the Coastal Protection Initiative which closed certain loopholes in Measure A.

I had the honor of working closely with Kit to form the Midcoast Community Council in 1991 and I was always impressed with this passion and tireless dedication to the Coastsides and environmental preservation. He was subsequently elected to serve on the first Midcoast Community Council and was chosen to be Chairman.

Kit Dove was not only active in politics, he was also active in getting others to participate in the public arena. Numerous Coastsides environmentalists and elected officials have credited Kit with their own activism in politics, environmental issues and public participation in the community. His wisdom and ability to bring together diverse groups of individuals made him a much sought after advisor and a well respected member of the Coastsides community.

Mr. Speaker, Kit Dove was a very kind, selfless man dedicated to his family and his community. Anyone who ever came in contact with him gained a greater appreciation for the environment. He lives on through his two children, through his devoted wife Mary and through all of us who were fortunate to have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a wonderful man who lived a life of purpose and to extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Freeman Dove and the entire Dove family.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD AND LUPE
ORTIZ

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Leonard and Lupe Ortiz, whose devotion to the people and culture of Ventura County, CA, in my district, will be recognized this weekend at the Interface Children Family Services' Tribute Dinner.

Leonard and Lupe Ortiz have lived in Ventura County their entire lives and are close personal friends. They raised four children here, three of which continue to live in Ventura County. In 1952, the Ortiz family launched Ortiz Trucking, which flourished. While building and running a successful business and raising and nurturing a fine family, Leonard and Lupe Ortiz also made time to dedicate themselves to their community.

Leonard Ortiz has served on the boards of Interface, the United Way, Easter Seals, and Community Memorial Hospital. He has been a member of the Sheriff's Posse, which is involved in search and rescue operations. He is now a member of the newly formed La Voz—Voice of Santa Paula. Its goal is to preserve